



Agenda Book

March 17-18, 2025

Location:

VMI



March 17-18, 2025, Council Meeting Schedule of Events

Virginia Military Institute
Lexington, VA 24450

March 17, 2025

2:00 – 3:45 Academic Affairs Committee
Preston Library, Turman Room
[Section I on the agenda](#)
Committee members: Cheryl Oldham (chair); Micah Edmond; Jason El Koubi;
Lindsay Fryer; Doug Straley; Steven Taylor. All members are invited to attend the
Academic Affairs Committee.

4:00 – 4:45 VMI Highlights Tour, Begin at Preston Library Building

5:00 – 5:45 Reception
Center for Leadership and Ethics, Marshall Hall, Hall of Valor

5:45 – 7:15 Dinner
Center for Leadership and Ethics, Marshall Hall, Hall of Valor

March 18, 2025

9:00 – 12:45 Council Meeting
Preston Library, Turman Room
[Section III on the agenda](#)

NEXT MEETING: May 12-13, 2025
Randolph Macon College



March 17-18, 2025, Council Meetings

Agenda

Virginia Military Institute

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I. Academic Affairs Committee Monday, March 17, 2025 Preston Library, Turman Room			
I.A. Call to Order	2:00 p.m.	Ms. Oldham	
I.B. Action on Proposed Education Licensure Degree Programs in Shortage Areas	2:10 p.m.	Dr. DeFilippo	5
I.C. Action on the Organizational Change Policy	2:30 p.m.	Dr. DeFilippo	9
I.D. Action on the New Degree Program Approval Policy	2:50 p.m.	Dr. DeFilippo	12
I.E. Receipt of Report of the Staff Liaison to the Academic Affairs Committee	3:30 p.m.	Dr. DeFilippo	21
I.F. Motion to Adjourn	3:45 p.m.	Ms. Oldham	
II. VMI Highlights Tour Monday, March 17, 2025 Begin at Preston Library Building	4:00 p.m.		
III. Council Meeting Tuesday, March 18, 2025 Preston Library, Turman Room			
III.A. Call to Order	9:00 a.m.	Gen. Jumper	
III.B. Approval of Minutes from January 7, 2025, Council Meeting	9:05 a.m.	Gen. Jumper	26
III.C. Remarks from Major General Cedric Wins, Superintendent, Virginia Military Institute	9:10 a.m.	Maj. Gen. Wins	45
III.D. Conversation with Student Advisory Committee: Critical Issues Impacting Students	9:30 a.m.	Ms. Robinson, Ms. Lowe and Student Representatives	47
BREAK	10:15 a.m.		
III.E. Discussion of Draft Goals of the Statewide Strategic Plan for Virginia Higher Education	10:30 a.m.	Mr. Fleming, Ms. Salmon	49
III.F. Update on 2025 General Assembly Session	11:30 a.m.	Dr. Khattar	53
III.G. Report from the Agency Director	11:50 a.m.	Mr. Fleming	55
III.H. Report of the Academic Affairs Committee	12:00 p.m.	Ms. Oldham	
III.I. Receipt of Items Delegated to Staff	12:20 p.m.	Mr. Fleming	58
III.J. Old Business	12:30 p.m.	Gen. Jumper	

III.K. New Business	12:35 p.m.	Gen. Jumper	
III.L. Receipt of Public Comment	12:40 p.m.	Gen. Jumper	
III.M. Motion to Adjourn	12:45 p.m.	Gen. Jumper	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>NEXT MEETING:</u> May 12-13, 2025, Randolph-Macon College (Ashland) (Joint Meeting with Private College Advisory Board)</p>			

*Use of courtesy titles is based on the expressed preference of the individual

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia Agenda Item

Item: I.B – Academic Affairs Committee – Action on Proposed Education Licensure Degree Programs in Shortage Areas

Date of Meeting: March 17, 2025

Presenter: Dr. Joseph G. DeFilippo
Director of Academic Affairs & Planning
joedefilippo@schev.edu

Most Recent Review/Action:

- ☐ No previous Council review/action
☒ Previous review/action

Date: October 24, 2023

Action: Council resolved to adopt a set of initiatives in support of the goals of the statewide strategic plan for higher education and Governor Youngkin's higher education objectives and key results (OKR's):

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia approves and adopts the biennial initiatives proposed in support of the goals of the statewide strategic plan for higher education and Governor Youngkin's objectives and key results (OKRs), as discussed and agreed upon on September 19, 2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education directs its staff to develop workplans and any prerequisite budget and/or policy recommendations necessary to implement these initiatives, as well as to provide regular progress updates to Council.

Background Information/Summary of Major Elements:

Biennial priority initiatives represent Council-endorsed actions that SCHEV staff will take to support the goals and strategies of *Pathways to Opportunity: The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*. After an iterative process, ten priority initiatives were adopted by Council in October 2023. One of those initiatives is focused on establishing criteria to define and incentives to address urgent labor market needs. A discrete action supporting this initiative involves developing education licensure degree programs that will strengthen Virginia's K-12 educator workforce pipeline:

Governor's OKR	SCHEV Initiative Action
2. Build the college and career pipeline in partnership with K-12. 2.4 Leverage the Schools of Education to attract, grow and retain the greatest PreK-12 teaching force in the nation.	Develop Teacher Preparation Degree Programs: Collaborate with institutions of higher education and Virginia Department of Education on approval of new teacher preparation degree programs for fall 2024 or later implementation.

In support of the initiative, staff consulted with the Instructional Programs Advisory Committee (IPAC) and held dedicated virtual meetings with academic program and teacher education contacts at public institutions of higher education. As a result of those consultations, it was determined that there was an appetite for an initiative that would facilitate creation of degree programs in teacher preparation, and other education licensure professions, for which Virginia is currently experiencing shortages. This determination was consistent both with concurrent news reports on the persistence of teacher shortages in the Commonwealth (e.g., https://richmond.com/news/state-regional/education/virginia-teacher-shortage/article_38aaab38-4374-11ee-8330-f3eeacd8aee2.html), and with the September 2023 report by the staff of the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) on the pipeline of K-12 teachers (<https://jlarc.virginia.gov/landing-2023-virginias-k-12-teacher-pipeline.asp>). The JLARC report highlights the persistence of shortages in Virginia and notably asserts that “direct pathways to licensure tend to better prepare teachers to be successful in the classroom” (emphasis added). The initiative under which this action item is being presented to Council will specifically expand Virginia public institutions’ capacity to produce licensed education professionals via direct pathways.

The process developed for this initiative involved creation and distribution of a specialized guidance for program proposals that streamlined required information, and specified that the justification for the proposed degree program must document both (i) that the proposed program would address a licensure/endorsement area for which there is a current shortage in Virginia, and (ii) that the proposed program would enable the proposing institution to increase its production of educators in that licensure/endorsement area.

The timeline created for the initiative this year involved a submission deadline of December 2, 2024, with a commitment to present proposed programs for Council action by March 2025. Two degree programs from George Mason were submitted in time to present for Council approval at the January 2025 meeting. The five (5) degree programs presented here conclude this initiative for the 2024-25.

Materials Provided:

Table: Programs by Institution, with Projected Increase in Licensed Educator Production.

Financial Impact: Proposed degree programs in education shortage areas will be financed from within institutions' education units. Existing resources currently used to train teachers in other degree programs would be dedicated to the proposed degree programs.

Timetable for Further Review/Action: N/A.

Resolution:

Staff presents five (5) new degree programs to address education-licensure shortage areas, from four (4) institutions. The Academic Affairs Committee may vote to approve, disapprove, approve with condition, or table for future action. If approved, adopt the following resolution and transmit it to Council:

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia grants approval to the four institutions listed below to implement the specified degree programs in education licensure shortage areas, effective fall 2025.

Institution	Degree	Program Name	CIP
JMU	Master of Arts (MA)	Physical and Health Education Teacher Education	13.1314
Longwood	Bachelor of Science (BS)	Special Education	13.1001
UVa	Bachelor of Science in Education (BSEd)	Secondary Education	13.1205
UVa	Bachelor of Science in Education (BSEd)	English as a Second Language Education	13.1401
VTech	Master of Arts in Education (MAEd)	Reading and Literacy Education	13.1315

Table: Programs/Endorsements by Institution, with Projected Increase in Licensed Educator Production.

Insti- tution	Award	Title	CIP	Initial Endorsement(s)	Annual Increase
JMU	MA	Physical and Health Education Teacher Education	13.1314	Adapted Special Education	5
Long- wood	BS	Special Education	13.1001	Special Education	15
UVa	BSEd	Secondary Education	13.1205	Secondary (6-12) English History and social sciences Mathematics Science – biology Science – chemistry Science – Earth science Science – physics	27
UVa	BSEd	English as a Second Language Education	13.1401	English as a second language (preK-12)	5
VTech	MAEd	Reading and Literacy Education	13.1315	Reading Specialist	20

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia Agenda Item

Item: I.C. – Academic Affairs Committee – Action on the Organizational Change Policy

Date of Meeting: March 17, 2025

Presenters: Dr. Joseph G. DeFilippo
Director of Academic Affairs & Planning
joedefilippo@schev.edu

Most Recent Review/Action:

- ☐ No previous Council review/action
☒ Previous review/action

Date: January 7, 2025

Action: Council discussed the current policy's provision, wherein institutional Board approval is not required by SCHEV; Chairman Jumper requested that staff bring a policy change for Council consideration to a future meeting.

Purpose of the Agenda Item:

This item presents a modification to Council's policy, "Organizational Changes at Public Institutions: Policies and Procedures for Internal and Off-Campus Organizational Changes," in accord with Council's duties #7 and #15 of the *Code of Virginia*, § 23.1-203:

7. Review and approve or disapprove the establishment of any department, school, college, branch, division, or extension of any public institution of higher education that such institution proposes to establish, whether located on or off the main campus of such institution.

15. Adopt such policies and regulations as the Council deems necessary to implement its duties established by state law. Each public institution of higher education shall comply with such policies and regulations.

Background Information/Summary of Major Elements:

At Council's January 7, 2025 meeting, in connection with its consideration of three (3) organizational changes proposed by public institutions, members engaged in deliberation on a specific feature of SCHEV's Organizational Changes policy, i.e., that the policy does not require approval by the institutions' governing boards. Council deliberation is reflected in the draft minutes as follows:

In response to a query from General Jumper, Dr. DeFilippo noted the Organizational Changes policy does not require institutions to secure Board of Visitor approval for proposed organizational changes. In response to a comment

by General Jumper, Dr. Harvey noted a concern, not with the proposals presented to council but with the current policy not requiring Board of Visitor approval for organizational changes. In response to a comment by Dr. Harvey, Dr. DeFilippo noted that proposals presented to SCHEV speak only to the specific requirements in policy. In response to a comment by General Jumper, Dr. DeFilippo noted the proposed organizational changes are all slated to go into effect in the near future, but a proviso could be added to the resolution requiring the institutions to confirm Board of Visitors approval of the proposed changes.

Dr. Taylor noted a desire not to usurp the president's role in the governance at any public institution. Mr. Curt noted the need for council to provide state-wide oversight of higher education, including oversight of which institution operates in each market area. Dr. Harvey noted that taking organizational changes to the Boards of Visitors should not cause institutions undue concern. General Jumper asked staff to consider potential mechanisms to ensure future organizational changes are having intended consequences. Further, General Jumper asked Dr. DeFilippo to present an amended resolution granting provisional approval and requiring the institutions to provide proof of Board of Visitor approval of the changes by July 1, 2025. Mr. Curt requested there be separate resolutions for each institution's proposed changes. Ms. O'Halloran noted faith in the institution's ability to obtain BOV approval while also noting concern with enacting policy change for proposals currently under review.

General Jumper requests staff present changes to the current organizational policy in a future council meeting. (emphasis added)

In accord with General Jumper's request, staff proposes the following amendment to the SCHEV Organizational Change policy (policy provision #9, p. 8):

All requests for organizational changes **must be approved** by the institution's Board of Visitors (BOV). ~~All requests that require governing board approval must be and~~ formally submitted to SCHEV **within one (1) year of that approval**. If the organizational change is approved by SCHEV, the change must be implemented **within one (1) year of the effective date** as indicated in the SCHEV approval letter. Organizational changes not implemented within the one year must be submitted as a new request. (p.8)

Materials Provided:

- See proposed policy amendment directly above.

Financial Impact: The proposed amendment to Council policy does not carry direct financial implications; it will entail a modicum of work for institutions as they change their procedures to align with the policy's new requirement.

Relationship to the Goals of The Virginia Plan for Higher Education:

Council's consideration of changes in the academic structures of public institutions supports the strategy outlined in *Pathways to Opportunity: The Virginia Plan for Higher Education* to "Foster program and administrative innovations that enhance quality, promote collaboration and improve efficiency."

Timetable for Further Review/Action: N/A.

Resolution:

Staff presents a proposed amendment to Council's policy, "Organizational Changes at Public Institutions: Policies and Procedures for Internal and Off-Campus Organizational Changes." The Academic Affairs Committee may vote to approve, disapprove, approve with condition, or table for future action. If approved, adopt the following resolution and transmit it to Council:

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia approves the following modification to "Organizational Changes at Public Institutions: Policies and Procedures for Internal and Off-Campus Organizational Changes," to take effect April 1, 2025:

All requests for organizational changes must be approved by the institution's Board of Visitors (BOV). ~~All requests that require governing board approval must be~~ and formally submitted to SCHEV **within one (1) year of that approval**. If the organizational change is approved by SCHEV, the change must be implemented **within one (1) year of the effective date** as indicated in the SCHEV approval letter. Organizational changes not implemented within the one year must be submitted as a new request. (p.8)

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia Agenda Item

Item: I.D. – Academic Affairs Committee – Action on the New Degree-Program Approval Policy

Date of Meeting: March 17, 2025

Presenter: Dr. Joseph G. DeFilippo
Director of Academic Affairs & Planning
joedefilippo@schev.edu

Most Recent Review/Action:

☐ No previous Council review/action

☒ Previous review/action

Date: October 22, 2024

Action: Council received a briefing and discussed proposed reforms to SCHEV's policy for approval of new degree programs proposed by public institutions.

Purpose of the Agenda Item:

This item presents new policy guidance to govern SCHEV's consideration of proposals for new degree programs at public institutions of higher education, in accord with Council's duties (*Code of Virginia*, § 23.1-203) to:

5. Review and approve or disapprove all new undergraduate or graduate academic programs that any public institution of higher education proposes.

15. Adopt such policies and regulations as the Council deems necessary to implement its duties established by state law. Each public institution of higher education shall comply with such policies and regulations.

Background Information/Summary of Major Elements:

In Summer 2024, Director Fleming asked staff to develop reforms to SCHEV's policies related to degree-program approval and degree-program productivity, with the aim of achieving three broad outcomes:

- enhanced nimbleness in bringing new degree programs to Council for decision;
- lowered threshold for approval of new degree programs; and
- raised threshold for post-approval evaluation of degree programs (program productivity).

Following consultations with public-institution chief academic officers in September 2024, November 2024, January 2025, and March 2025, and with Council's Academic Affairs Committee in October 2024, staff presents for Council consideration the "New Degree Program Approval Guidance Document."

The “New Degree Program Approval Guidance Document” will establish the following changes to SCHEV’s requirements for new degree program proposals, all of which contribute to Director Fleming’s requested reform outcomes of enhanced nimbleness and facilitated approval:

- The “Program Announcement” stage has been removed – to reduce work and time to approval.
- A new submission form has been developed – to reduce and clarify information required for new degree program proposals.
- Review by SCHEV staff will shift to a new focus on data verification – rather than serving as “gatekeeper” to Council action.
- Data from the Virginia Office of Education Economics (VOEE) will be used – to document employment demand, to reduce workload associated with producing program proposals for SCHEV, and to ensure more uniform labor market data.
- “Return on Investment” has been added as a factor that must be documented (where data are available) – to support Governor’s priorities.

The totality of reforms incorporated in the “New Degree Program Approval Guidance Document,” will make the path to Council action more predictable and, in some cases, shorter. The utilization of VOEE data, together with the inclusion of Return on Investment data, will bring SCHEV’s process into line with the most up-to-date and Virginia-specific data.

Materials Provided:

- “New Degree Program Approval Guidance Document”

Financial Impact: The direct cost implications of the proposed reforms are unknown. Staff anticipates that financial impacts will involve indirect cost savings via reduced staff time to prepare and review proposals for new degree programs.

Relationship to the Goals of *The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*:

Council’s consideration of new degree programs supports the following strategies outlined in *Pathways to Opportunity: The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*:

- Cultivate affordable postsecondary education pathways for traditional, non-traditional and returning students.
- Foster program and administrative innovations that enhance quality, promote collaboration and improve efficiency.
- Improve the alignment between post-secondary academic programs and labor market outcomes.

Timetable for Further Review/Action: N/A

Resolution:

Staff presents “New Degree Program Approval Guidance Document.” The Academic Affairs Committee may vote to approve, disapprove, approve with condition, or table for future action. If approved, adopt the following resolution and transmit it to Council:

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia approves the “New Degree Program Approval Guidance Document,” effective immediately, or as soon thereafter as proves practicable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director, or his delegate, may adopt such practices and procedures as he deems necessary to achieve a smooth transition to the Guidance Document’s provisions.

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia
New Degree Program Approval Guidance Document
Effective: March 19, 2025

This Guidance Document, and the accompanying New Degree Program Proposal Form, replace and supersede all guidance relating to documents for new degree program proposals in the “Academic Programs at Public Institutions: Policies and Procedures for Approvals and Changes” policy. The “Academic Programs at Public Institutions: Policies and Procedures for Approvals and Changes” policy remains in effect for all other academic program actions submitted to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV).

I. Council’s Statutory Duties Related to Academic Programs at Public Institutions

The Code of Virginia, Section 23.1-203, enumerates core duties of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV). Those most directly related to academic programs at public institutions are listed below. This Guidance Document relates directly to Duty #5.

- Duty 1: Develop a statewide strategic plan that ... identifies a coordinated approach to ... state and regional goals, and emphasizes the future needs for higher education in the Commonwealth at both the undergraduate and the graduate levels and the mission, programs, facilities, and location of each of the existing institutions of higher education, each public institution’s six-year plan, and such other matters as the Council deems appropriate.
- Duty 3: Study any proposed escalation of any public institution to a degree granting level higher than that level to which it is presently restricted and to submit a report and recommendation to the Governor and the General Assembly relating to the proposal. The study shall include the need for and benefits or detriments to be derived from the escalation. No such institution shall implement any such proposed escalation until the Council’s report and recommendation have been submitted to the General Assembly and the General Assembly approves the institution’s proposal.
- Duty 5: Review and approve or disapprove all new undergraduate or graduate academic programs that any public institution of higher education proposes.
- Duty 8: Review the proposed closure of any academic program in a high demand or critical shortage area, as defined by the Council, by any public institution of higher education and assist in the development of an orderly closure plan, when needed.
- Duty 15: Adopt such policies and regulations as the Council deems necessary to implement its duties established by state law. Each public institution of higher education shall comply with such policies and regulations.
- Duty 27: Insofar as practicable, preserve the individuality, traditions, and sense of responsibility of each public institution of higher education in carrying out its duties.
- Duty 28: Insofar as practicable, seek the assistance and advice of each public institution of higher education in fulfilling its duties and responsibilities.

The Council has established the following policies and procedures related to new degree programs at public institutions in answer to the duties referenced above, and as part of its obligation “to advocate for and promote the development and operation of an educationally

and economically sound, vigorous, progressive, and coordinated system of higher education in the Commonwealth..." (Code of Virginia, § 23.1-200).

II. Policy Statements and Requirements

A. Board of Visitors/State Board for Community Colleges and Six-Year Plans

- All new degree program proposals submitted to SCHEV for approval must have been approved by the institutional board within **one year** of the date of submission to SCHEV.
- As part of the approval process and action, the institutional board must be presented with information regarding (i) duplication with existing degree programs at Virginia public institutions of higher education, (ii) relation to existing degree programs already offered at the institution, and (iii) labor market information as required in the New Degree Program Proposal Form.
- All new degree program proposals submitted to SCHEV must have been included in either the most recent biennial six-year plan submission, or the most recent amended six-year plan submission, in accord with Code of Virginia § 23.1-306.

B. Degree Program Common Core Requirements

Each curriculum leading to the award of an associate, baccalaureate, master's, or doctoral degree is identified by a separate CIP code in the SCHEV Degree and Certificate inventory. Each curriculum under a given CIP code shall share a common core of courses according to the table below. Groupings of courses may be used to define a variety of related sub-areas that are not identical to the formal degree program in which students are enrolled and from which they graduate. Sub-areas may be designated by varying terms, such as: concentration, emphasis area, focus, major, option, specialization, or track. Sub-areas developed after a degree program has been approved by Council must maintain the focus and common core requirement of the degree program. Council approval is not required to add or remove sub-areas to an existing degree program. If a sub-area under a given curriculum becomes sufficiently different from the common core, it may need to be approved by SCHEV as a new degree program.

Core coursework must meet Council core requirement

Bachelor's degree	25% of total credit hours required for the degree, excluding general education core
Master's degree	50%* of total credit hours required for the degree
Doctor's degree	25% of total credit hours required for the degree (excluding the dissertation; dissertation research is not included in the exclusion.)

* Consideration will be given to degree programs that adequately justify a core curriculum with less than 50%.

C. Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies

Certificates of Advanced Graduate Studies (C.A.G.S.) or Educational Specialist Degrees (Ed.S.): curricula leading to a formal award certifying completion of at least one year of study beyond the master's level in an academic or occupationally specific field of study. These academic programs are usually intended for professional licensure or professional development. Council approval is required to award the C.A.G.S. and the Ed.S. See the SCHEV document "Certificate Program Definitions" for more specific information related to the C.A.G.S. award.

D. Community College Transfer Associate Degree Programs

By Council action in January 2023, all community colleges are authorized to offer Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate of Science (AS) degree programs according to 10 Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes specified in the following list:

Associate of Arts (AA)

Liberal Arts (CIP 24.0103)

Associate of Science (AS)

General Studies (CIP 24.0102)

Business Administration (CIP 52.0201)

Computer Science (CIP 11.0701)

Education (CIP 13.0101)

Engineering (CIP 14.0101)

Health Sciences (CIP 51.000)

Information Technology (CIP 11.0103)

Science (CIP 30.0101)

Social Sciences (CIP 45.0101)

For community colleges intending to initiate one of the above listed transfer associate degree programs, the VCCS academic vice chancellor must submit to SCHEV a cover letter and completed SCHEV Cover Sheet. To initiate any other transfer or applied associate degree program, a full new degree program proposal must be submitted as per the rest of this policy.

E. Doctoral Degree Programs and External Site Review

- Proposals for new doctoral degree programs will be presented for Council decision as to whether the proposed degree program may move to an external site review by a team of experts.
- Institutions must arrange, in consultation with SCHEV staff and fund a site visit for an external review team to conduct an evaluation of the degree program proposal and institutional resources. At least two qualified external reviewers and a SCHEV staff will attend the external review. The site visit must be completed at least eight (8) weeks in advance of the date of expected Council action of approval, disapproval, or table for future action. None of the external reviewers may have an affiliation, past or present with the institution; no more than one of the external reviewers may reside within Virginia. The external reviewers must be provided with copies of the degree program proposal and faculty Curriculum Vitae (CV's) prior to the visit and should be charged with preparation of a written report, which must be submitted to the SCHEV

staff. Institutions must provide written documentation to SCHEV and to the external reviewers addressing any recommendations or significant issues from the reviewers' report. Hard copies of reviewers' CV's must be sent to SCHEV.

F. Statement on Institutional Authority to Offer Doctoral Degree Programs

Doctoral degree programs normally will be offered by the major research universities. For the purposes of SCHEV policy, the following institutions are considered to be the major public research institutions: George Mason University, Old Dominion University, The College of William and Mary in Virginia, University of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Each of these s awards doctoral degrees in many fields.

Other institutions may have "limited authority" to offer doctoral degree programs under certain conditions: (1) if another institution has a special capacity to offer a doctoral degree program, usually a professional sort as distinguished from a research degree program; (2) if there is strong demand from place-bound professionals for a proposed degree program and the demand cannot be met in any other way via an existing degree program or alternate academic program such as certificate program or a minor; or (3) if there are special circumstances that support a proposed degree program.

James Madison University, Norfolk State University, Radford University, and Virginia State University each have "limited authority" to offer doctoral degree programs. "Limited authority" generally entails:

- limitation to ten (10) or fewer doctoral level degree programs;
- doctoral degree programs focused on applied areas of study as opposed to fundamental research in the arts and sciences; and
- any new doctoral degree program proposed under this authority must be supported by compelling evidence of state need and absence of duplication with already existent doctoral degree programs at Virginia public institutions.

G. Degree Escalations

An institution wishing to offer one or more degree programs at a new degree designation level must simultaneously submit the degree program proposal(s) and follow the procedures outlined in Council's policy on "Escalation of Degree-Level Authority at Public Institutions." Negative action on the request to confer degrees at a new degree designation level results in the denial of the request for any degree programs at that level. However, approval of the new degree designation level does not automatically result in approval of the requested degree program(s). Each proposed degree program will be considered individually.

H. Approval Considerations

Council's consideration of new degree program proposals will focus on specific factors. Council is particularly interested in questions related to issues of "need" for new degree programs, in accord with the following questions/issues.

- State Needs. Will the proposed program be an optimal use of state resources in light of state budget considerations and the contributions of any existing degree programs?

What are the needs (justifications) for the state to initiate a new degree program at this time?

- **Employer Needs.** Will the program fill demonstrable employer needs in the state? If so, what Virginia market data indicates current unmet employer demand for graduates of such programs and the designated degree level?
- **Student Needs.** Will the degree program fill demonstrable student needs in the state? If so, what Virginia data indicates current unmet student demand for such a degree program? If not, why does the institution anticipate student demand for the new degree program?
- **Duplication.** Will the degree program duplicate similar or related degree programs at public institutions in Virginia? How many similar degree programs are offered and by which public institutions? What are the student enrollment and graduation data for the existing degree programs?
- **Resource Needs.** Will the new degree program affect the institution's budget? If so, how and how significantly? (Will changes be required in faculty, staff, facilities, or other resources need to initiate and sustain a new degree program? How will resources be internally reallocated to fund and support the proposed new degree program?
- **Return on Investment.** Will the new degree program provide students with a return on the investment for pursuing and obtaining the degree? What evidence shows a return on investment will occur?

III. Process

- New degree program proposals are submitted via a single email to programsubmissions@schev.edu. Email submissions must include three attached files: 1) the Word document of the new degree program proposal form, 2) the Word document for the SCHEV Cover Sheet, and 3) a PDF of the full new degree program proposal comprised of a signed cover letter and certification statement page, SCHEV cover sheet, and new degree program proposal form with appendices.
Note. A PDF of the full document with signatures is submitted on a flash drive upon final approval.
- SCHEV staff will conduct an initial review of documentation to ensure it meets basic SCHEV policy requirements; the proposal will then be acknowledged.
- Following acknowledgment, SCHEV staff will evaluate the proposal for completeness and coherence and provide feedback once. Circumstances permitting, feedback will be provided within eight (8) weeks of acknowledgment.
 - Following SCHEV staff feedback, an updated proposal must be submitted within four (4) weeks, otherwise the degree program proposal is removed from active evaluation.
 - Following submission of an updated proposal, the proposed new degree program will be placed on the next feasible Council agenda for action.
- New degree program proposals that are not complete, or that otherwise do not adhere to SCHEV requirements, will not be placed on the Council agenda for action. Any

information or procedure specified in the New Degree Program Proposal Form that is not specifically listed above is also to be understood as a SCHEV requirement.

- Approval to initiate a new degree program does not imply conferral or endorsement of any other approvals that may be required by other SCHEV duties or policies, including (but not necessarily limited to) mission statement changes, organizational changes, or student enrollment projections.
- Approval to initiate a new degree program may also require a substantive change review by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) if the new degree program significantly modifies or expands the scope of the institution's current/existing degree program degree designation level(s), disciplinary areas of study, and/or courses. SCHEV recognizes that SACSCOC review does not necessarily apply to the same program actions, nor does it address the same factors that constitute the focus of SCHEV's program approval policy.

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia Agenda Item

Item: I.E. – Academic Affairs Committee – Report of the Staff Liaison to the Academic Affairs Committee

Date of Meeting: March 17, 2025

Presenter: Dr. Joseph G. DeFilippo
Director of Academic Affairs & Planning
joedefilippo@schev.edu

Most Recent Review/Action:

- ☒ No previous Council review/action
☐ Previous review/action

Date:

Action:

Purpose of Agenda Item:

Staff activities report.

Background Information/Summary of Major Elements:

N/A

Materials Provided:

“Report of the Staff Liaison to the Academic Affairs Committee,” by Dr. Joseph G. DeFilippo.

Financial Impact:

N/A

Relationship to Goals of *The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*:

N/A

Timetable for Further Review/Action:

N/A

Resolution:

N/A

Dr. Joseph G. DeFilippo
Director of Academic Affairs & Planning

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2024 Private Postsecondary Recertification

- The Private Postsecondary Education (PPE) section utilized its online portal for the annual recertification of the approximately 225 private and out-of-state institutions that require SCHEV certification to operate in Virginia. As of November 30, PPE staff have completed their review of 225 submissions and issued new *Certificates to Operate* for another year.

Twenty-five schools decided not to recertify with SCHEV, citing declining enrollment as the reason for their closure. PPE staff are working with these schools to ensure proper maintenance of student records.

Orientation Sessions for Schools Seeking Certification

- PPE staff virtually convened groups of prospective school owners on December 3, 2024, and February 25, 2025. This orientation is the first step in the application process for entities seeking certification to operate a postsecondary school in Virginia. Staff presented participants with an overview of the laws and regulations pertaining to the operation of a private postsecondary school and a summary of the certification process. The orientation also included detailed instructions on how to complete the certification application. Attendance at the December meeting totaled six representatives of degree-granting institutions and 25 vocational schools. The February meeting saw attendance by eight representatives of degree-granting institutions and 17 vocational schools.

Open Virginia Advisory Committee

- The Open Virginia Advisory Committee (OVAC) met December 20, 2024 and January 24, 2025. The committee includes representatives from public two- and four- year institutions. The agenda included discussion on the new Open Education Resource Impact Award funded by the Virtual Library of Virginia (VIVA), the impact of Inclusive Access programs on the use of Open Education resources, and creation of subcommittees to inform council on initiatives and policies that may promote the adoption of open education resources. The OVAC is scheduled to reconvene in March 2025.

State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)—State Meeting

- Darlene Derricott and Emily Hills organized the 2024 Virginia-SARA state meeting for Virginia's 74 participating SARA institutions on November 14 in Richmond, and commemorated Virginia's 10th anniversary of SARA participation. The meeting opened with remarks from SCHEV Director Fleming and Academic Affairs Director DeFilippo. The meeting included a presentation from Kemi Jona, Vice President and Provost for Online Education and Digital

Innovation at the University of Virginia, on the Landscape of Higher Education from a Distance Learning Perspective. Staff from the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA), Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), and State Authorization Network (SAN) presented information on SARA policy updates, the federal regulatory rulemaking process, and resources available to SARA-participating institutions in Virginia. Panels composed of staff from Virginia SARA institutions shared best practices and conveyed the challenges institutions encounter implementing federal requirements for programs leading to professional licensure and certification.

State Committee on Transfer

- The State Committee on Transfer (SCT) met November 21, 2024. The SCT includes representatives from all public two- and four-year institutions. The agenda included a discussion on next steps in expanding dual admission agreements, standardizing the awarding of SCHEV's Two-Year College Transfer Grant, credit acceptance from nationally accredited institutions, and an update on Transfer Virginia. The SCT is scheduled to meet again in January of 2025.

Staff Activities and Recognition

Karen Banks

- Attended and presented at the VCCS Curriculum and Program Proposal Workshop on November 6, 2024. Ms. Banks presented to the two-year colleges on the SCHEV academic review/approval processes, including a discussion of how to submit proposals or notifications related to certificates, new degree programs, intents to discontinue, technical changes, and modifications. Ms. Banks used the opportunity to respond to colleges' questions and to clarify SCHEV processes for submission of items for review/approval.

Darlene Derricott

- Represented Virginia at the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) S-SARA Regional Steering Committee Meeting, October 15-17, in Atlanta. Ms. Derricott presented on the statewide SARA meeting planning process. Attendees discussed the policy modification process, received an update from national SARA leadership, and voted to approve Virginia's continued membership in the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA).

Jodi Fisler

- Presented at the Virginia Assessment Group annual conference in Staunton November 20-22.
- Participated in meetings of the Virtual Library of Virginia (VIVA) Steering Committee and SCHEV's Library Advisory Committee, held at Marymount University on December 5-6.

- Co-hosted “Exploring Democracy Inventories,” a roundtable discussion at the annual meeting of the American Association of Colleges & Universities (AAC&U) in Washington, DC, January 22-25.
- Participated as a panelist in “Empowering Dialogue Across Differences on Campus,” a webinar sponsored by AAC&U and the Constructive Dialogue Institute on February 12.

Sandra Freeman

- Attended the Virginia SARA meeting on November 14, 2024, in Richmond.
- Attended the SACSCOC Annual Meeting in Austin Texas from December 7-10. The theme Balancing Innovation and Compliance served as the perfect setting to explore the intricate balance between fostering innovation and maintaining compliance with the Principles of Accreditation.
- Attended the Virginia Higher Education Substance Abuse Advisory Committee meeting on January 24 held at the Virginia ABC Headquarters in Mechanicsville.
- Attended the CHEA/CIQC Annual Conference in Washington, DC. The event focused Quality Assurance in An Era of Change.
- Attended the ACE Women’s Leadership Conference in Washington, DC from February 13-14, which explored topics related to effective strategies for advancing and supporting women in higher education leadership.

Emily Muniz

- Participated in the Virginia Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (VACRAO) Fall 2024 transfer fair tour to promote the Transfer Virginia initiative. She attended transfer fairs at Blue Ridge Community College, Central Virginia Community College, and Piedmont Virginia Community College and spoke with students, faculty, and staff about transfer in Virginia.
- Presented to the Interstate Transfer Council virtually on December 2 about the Transfer Virginia initiative to educate stakeholders in other states about the work being done in Virginia to improve transfer.
- Attended and presented at the Virginia College Access Network (VCAN) conference in Williamsburg, December 11-13. The purpose of the presentation was to educate Virginia high school and dual enrollment counselors about using the Transfer Virginia portal to advise students creating higher education plans after high school.
- Co-authored an article in Inside Higher Ed’s *Beyond Transfer* blog titled “Better Together: Creating a Statewide Transfer Professional Peer Group,” which appeared on December 19. The article focuses on the development of a statewide transfer advising peer group.

Paul Smith

- Presented at the Virginia Commission on Early Childhood Care and Education’s (ECCE) meeting on higher education, held in Glen Allen on December 5-6. The event, hosted by the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF), was a convening of representatives of public two- and four-year institutions to discuss the challenges and solutions for meeting Virginia’s workforce need for early

childhood educators. Dr. Smith presented on the importance of developing and maintaining transfer agreements.

Academic Affairs Staff:

Public Sector Academic Affairs

Ms. Karen Banks, Academic Affairs Support Specialist
Dr. Joseph G. DeFilippo, Director, Academic Affairs & Planning
Ms. Darlene Derricott, Senior Coordinator, Academic Services
Dr. Jodi Fisler, Senior Associate for Assessment Policy & Analysis
Ms. Emily Hils, Academic Programs and Services Specialist
Ms. Emily Muniz, Associate for Transfer and Talent Pathways
Dr. Monica Osei, Associate Director for Academic Programs & Instructional Sites
Dr. Kirstin Pantazis, Associate for Academic Affairs
Dr. Paul Smith, Senior Associate for Student Mobility Policy & Research

Private Postsecondary Education

Mr. Richard Cole, Certification Specialist
Ms. Sandra Freeman, Director, Private Postsecondary Education
Mr. Ryan Hannifin, Associate for Academic Quality & Student Protections
Ms. Elizabeth Howard, Associate for Academic Quality & Student Protections
Ms. Kathleen Kincheloe, Compliance Specialist
Ms. Monica Lewis, Fiscal Specialist
Ms. Sylvia Rosa-Casanova, Senior Associate for Private Postsecondary Education
Ms. Stephanie Shelton, Administrative Assistant
Mr. Alfonso Wells, Compliance Investigator

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA
COUNCIL MEETING (Virtual)
JANUARY 7, 2025**

DRAFT MINUTES

General Jumper called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Council members present: Walter Curt, Delceno Miles, Jason El Koubi, William Harvey, Lindsay Fryer, John Jumper, Jennie O'Holleran, John Olsen, Carlyle Ramsey, Douglas Straley and Steven Taylor.

Council members absent: Cheryl Oldham and Micah Edmond.

Staff members present: Lee Andes, Taylor Clark, Grace Covello Khattar, Joe DeFilippo, Alan Edwards, Scott Fleming, Sandra Freeman, Alexis Gravely, Jessica Madden, Erin McGrath, Jessica Minnis-McClain, Tod Massa, Matthew Nwaneri, Laura Osberger, Monica Osei, Kirstin Pantazis, Paula Robinson, Emily Salmon, Barry Simmons, Paul Smith, Bob Spieldenner, Kristin Whelan and Yan Zheng.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. El Koubi and seconded by Dr. Taylor, the minutes from the October 21, 2024, Academic Affairs Committee and the Resources and Planning Committee meetings and the October 22, 2024, Education Session and the October 22, 2024, Council meeting were approved 11-0.

ACTION ON PROPOSED DEGREE PROGRAMS AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

Dr. DeFilippo introduced the proposed new degree programs and gave remarks about each. William & Mary is proposing a B.A./B.S. in Public Health (CIP 51.2201) which responds to the Commonwealth's need for bachelor's level health care professionals. Four public institutions in Virginia offer similar or related degree programs. George Mason University is proposing a Ph.D. in Geology and Earth Science (CIP 40.0601) which responds to a need for advanced education in geological hazards to respond to climate crises. One public institution in Virginia offers a similar or related degree program. Virginia Tech is proposing a Master of Science in Data Science (CIP 30.7001) which responds to demand for professionals who can understand and interpret vast amounts of data. Four public institutions in Virginia offer similar or related degree programs.

In response to a query from General Jumper, Dr. DeFilippo remarked that the forthcoming academic program policy revisions are intended to reflect Council's desire to lower the threshold for starting a degree program while raising the threshold for proving a degree program has delivered on intended goals and meets productivity standards. In response to a query from Mr. Curt, General Jumper noted that Council is revising policy but never intends to categorically approve degree programs without specific consideration of the merits and concerns of each proposed degree program. In response to a comment by Mr. Curt, Ms. Fryer expressed a desire for data driven decisions on both starting and closing degree programs rather than policy adopting

arbitrarily decided quotas. In response to a question from Ms. Fryer, Dr. DeFilippo noted that in the field of Geology doctoral education is required to teach at many four-year institutions and is also required by multiple government and private industry research organizations.

On a motion by Ms. Miles and seconded by Mr. Straley, the following amended resolution was approved unanimously (11-0):

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia grants approval to the following institutions to initiate the indicated degree programs, effective fall 2025.

- **The College of William and Mary in Virginia: Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science (B.A./B.S.) in Public Health (CIP code: 51.2201).**
- **George Mason University: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Geology and Earth Science (CIP code: 40.0601).**
- **Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University: Master of Science (M.S.) degree program in Data Science (CIP code: 30.7001).**

ACTION ON PROPOSED EDUCATION LICENSURE DEGREE PROGRAMS IN SHORTAGE AREAS

Dr. DeFilippo introduced the initiative to facilitate approval of new degree programs in education licensure shortage areas. Dr. DeFilippo then introduced George Mason University's proposed new Master of Education in Elementary Education (CIP 13.1202) and Master of Education in Secondary Education (CIP 13.1205). George Mason University attests that the elementary education degree program would produce 10 graduates per year and the secondary education degree program would produce 11 graduates per year.

In response to a query by General Jumper, Dr. DeFilippo noted that Board of Visitor approval is required of all institutions proposing new degree programs. In response to a query by Dr. Taylor, Mr. Straley noted that while masters degrees are not required to teach at the K-12 level, they often grant additional endorsement areas making them desirable for individuals and for school divisions. Dr. DeFilippo remarked that degree programs presented under this process must result in licensure for those not already licensed to teach. In response to a query from Ms. Fryer, Dr. DeFilippo noted there are currently numerous degree programs in Virginia producing master's level licensed educators, but they often have different areas of focus.

In response to a query by General Jumper, Dr. DeFilippo noted that degree programs presented for review are designed to help the Commonwealth meet its documented need for licensed educators but do not address the root causes of the continued shortage of education professionals. Dr. Harvey remarked his preference for degree programs being reviewed by the Academic Affairs Committee before being presented to the full Council. In response to a query by Ms. Fryer, Dr. Taylor suggested elevating alternative credentialing for licensed teachers rather than a focus on potentially long term, high-cost degree programs. Mr. Straley supported Dr. Taylor's suggestion.

On motion by Ms. Miles and seconded by Mr. Straley, the following resolution was approved unanimously (11-0):

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia grants approval to George Mason University to implement the specified degree programs in education licensure shortage areas, effective fall 2025:

- **Master of Education (M.Ed.) Elementary Education (CIP: 13.1202)**
- **Master of Education (M.Ed.) Secondary Education (CIP: 13.1205)**

ACTION ON PROPOSED ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

Dr. DeFilippo introduced the three proposed organizational changes and noted Council's statutory duty to approve or disapprove organizational changes. The University of Virginia is proposing to establish UVA NOVA in Fairfax, which will offer a master's degree and two graduate certificates. Virginia Commonwealth University is proposing to establish (i) a free-standing Department of Urology in line with national trends and (ii) a School of Life Sciences and Sustainability, which would administer a roster of already existing degree programs.

In response to a query from General Jumper, Dr. DeFilippo noted the organizational change policy does not require institutions to secure Board of Visitor approval for proposed organizational changes. In response to a comment by General Jumper, Dr. Harvey noted a concern, not with the proposals presented to council but with the current policy not requiring Board of Visitor approval for organizational changes. In response to a comment by Dr. Harvey, Dr. DeFilippo noted that proposals presented to SCHEV speak only to the specific requirements in policy. In response to a comment by General Jumper, Dr. DeFilippo noted the proposed organizational changes are all slated to go into effect in the near future, but a proviso could be added to the resolution requiring the institutions to confirm Board of Visitors approval of the proposed changes.

Dr. Taylor noted a desire not to usurp the president's role in the governance at any public institution. Mr. Curt noted the need for Council to provide statewide oversight of higher education, including oversight of which institution operates in each market area. Dr. Harvey noted that taking organizational changes to the Boards of Visitors should not cause institutions undue concern. General Jumper asked staff to consider potential mechanisms to ensure future organizational changes are having intended consequences. Further, General Jumper asked Dr. DeFilippo to present an amended resolution granting provisional approval and requiring the institutions to provide proof of Board of Visitor approval of the changes by July 1, 2025. Mr. Curt requested there be separate resolutions for each institution's proposed changes. Ms. O'Holloran noted faith in the institution's ability to obtain BOV approval while also noting concern with enacting policy change for proposals currently under review.

General Jumper requests staff present changes to the current organizational policy in a future Council meeting. Dr. Harvey called on the amended resolutions with provisos for both UVA and VCU as presented by Dr. DeFilippo.

On motion by Ms. Miles and seconded by Dr. Harvey, the following resolution was unanimously approved (11-0).

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia approves the establishment of the following organizational units at public institutions, effective as indicated:

- *Department of Urology*, located in the School of Medicine at Virginia Commonwealth University, effective February 1, 2025.
- *School of Life Sciences and Sustainability*, located in the College of Humanities and Sciences at Virginia Commonwealth University, effective February 1, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that VCU confirm to SCHEV Board of Visitors approval of the organizational units by July 1, 2025.

On motion by Ms. Miles and seconded by Mr. El Koubi, the following resolution was approved (10-1).

BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia approves the establishment of the following organizational unit, effective as indicated:

- Off-campus instructional site *UVA | Northern Virginia* at 8095 Innovation Park Drive, 2nd and 3rd Floors, Fairfax, VA 22031, effective January 13, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UVA confirm to SCHEV Board of Visitors approval of the organizational units by July 1, 2025.

UPDATE ON 2024 DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES AWARDED

Mr. Massa provided an update on the 2024 awarded degrees and certificates. He introduced the Council to a new suite of reports that will accompany the fact packs and are located at the following link: <https://collegeoutcomes.schev.edu/>.

Mr. Massa summarized that the Commonwealth awarded the same total number of bachelor's degrees in 2024 as was awarded in 2023. There was a small increase in degrees from private institutes and a small decrease at the public institutions. The breakdown of awards follows:

In 2023-24, Virginia's public and private nonprofit colleges and universities awarded **57,562 bachelor's degrees**, the same as the previous year.

- Public four-year institutions conferred 38,529 bachelor's degrees, which was 483 fewer than the previous year.
- Private nonprofit institutions and ECPI conferred 19,033 bachelor's degrees, 483 more than the previous year.

In 2023-24, Virginia's community colleges and Richard Bland College conferred **17,165 associate degrees**, 155 more than in the previous year. (The public and private four-year institutions conferred an additional **2,390 associate degrees**.)

Together, the two-year institutions also produced **14,637 sub-baccalaureate certificates** in 2023-24, an increase 2,241 over the previous year. (The public and private four-years conferred **1,302**.)

Together, the public and private universities also produced **34,411 graduate and professional degrees** (282 more than last year) and **4,820 post-graduate certificates** in 2023-24.

In total, Virginia's public institutions, Virginias Tuition Assistance Grant participating private colleges, and ECPI University awarded **132,287 undergraduate and graduate degrees and certificates** in 2023-24, which was 2,387 more than the prior year.

Mr. Massa concluded that the state will not meet the goals set forth in the Top Jobs Act of 2010-2011. The target was created to boost overall degree production. Mr. El Koubi asked about revising the aspirations of the act. Assuming no further growth or losses, Mr. Massa projected a shortfall of 19,000 degrees.

Ms. O'Holleran asked why ECPI, a private, for-profit institution is included in the totals. Mr. Massa reported that ECPI approached the administration and asked to be included. The proprietary institutions are not required to report. To require the collections of data from these institutions would require a significant increase in staffing. Mr. Olsen asked additional questions about SCHEV's data collection and reporting.

Mr. Massa reported that the state remains on pace to meet the Council's strategic plan goal of awarding 1.5 million cumulative undergraduate awards by 2030.

Mr. Massa briefly showed the Council members the ways to use the new website to find the data in which they are interested.

Council members discussed the population peak and the coming drop-off. Mr. Massa answered specific questions from Council members by showing them where they could find the data they are looking for on the new site.

DISCUSSION OF GOVERNOR'S INTRODUCED BUDGET

Mr. Andes presented a summary of the Governor's introduced budget, which includes additional funding for institutions and SCHEV and new budget language. Mr. Andes highlighted additional funding items for nursing grants, student financial aid and workforce development grant programs.

Ms. Miles asked about transferring funds from G3 to Career Ready Virginia. She was concerned about taking money from a program used to increase graduates for in-demand jobs. Mr. Andes said that the money was a one-time transfer.

General Jumper asked Mr. Andes about the role SCHEV has in the distribution of the additional funding in the Governor's budget. Mr. Andes directed the Council to the new language in the Governor's budget that provided specific direction for SCHEV in the distribution of funds. Particularly, SCHEV will distribute financial aid related to

Virginia Military Survivors & Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP) and a new nursing grant for Hispanic Serving Institutions.

General Jumper asked if there was any additional regulations or rules identified by the VMSDEP task force that may be presented for implementation. Mr. Fleming said that the findings of the VMSDEP task force were presented to the General Assembly. No further meetings of the VMSDEP task force are planned at this point.

Mr. Andes also highlighted the Governor's proposed use of Commonwealth Savers (formerly known as VA 529) surplus to aid in the funding of VMSDEP. There is ongoing debate by stakeholders regarding the use of surplus funds from Commonwealth Savers. Mr. Andes highlighted the language included in the Governor's budget regarding the upcoming expectation of sustainability for the New College Institute. Mr. Andes told the Council members they would receive a copy of the summary used by Mr. Andes during his presentation.

After completing a review of the summary of the Governor's budget, Mr. Andes identified the initiatives that Council approved in October that also were included in the Governor's budget. Those initiatives include the following: additional funding for the Workforce Credential Grant Program, VMSDEP stipend and a data analyst position within SCHEV and support for the VA Longitudinal data system. Other initiatives approved by Council but not included in the Governor's budget include increases in funding for student financial aid, TAG, Mental Health Workforce pilot funding, Constructive Dialogue Institute, the Space Grant Consortium and the VA State Grant. The Governor's budget also included items not requested by Council including funding for the VMSDEP waiver, TAG bonus for nursing students at Hispanic Serving Institutions and the College Career Ready program.

Mr. Andes stated that the Governor's budget was introduced on December 18, and the General Assembly is scheduled to open on January 8, at which time the legislature will have an opportunity to react to the Governor's budget. Amendments are due by January 10; the session is scheduled to end on February 22, unless extended by a vote. The General Assembly is scheduled to reconvene April 2.

General Jumper asked Mr. Andes if there was insight on any proposed amendments. Mr. Andes said typically there is no advance notice on budget amendments. Mr. Andes believes there is interest in VMSDEP and its funding from the Commonwealth Savers surplus, as well as an amendment about the TAG program and other funding for student financial aid.

DISCUSSION OF THE 2025 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

Dr. Khattar discussed the upcoming General Assembly and role of SCHEV. The General Assembly is scheduled to meet on January 8, amendments are due on January 10, and the deadline for filing bills is January 17. Dr. Khattar directed Council to the agenda book for other important General Assembly dates.

Dr. Khattar explained the role of SCHEV during the General Assembly. SCHEV provides feedback and data for the administration and to members of the money committees. Primarily, SCHEV gives technical support but has historically not

provided public support for bills. During the session, SCHEV staff attends relevant committees and subcommittees and facilitates obtaining fiscal impact statements from institutions as required by the Department of Planning and Budget.

Dr. Khattar directed members to a [link](#) on the SCHEV website to identify all bills related to higher education. She warned of technical difficulties between the BillTrack 50 system and the State Legislative System but expects that those will soon be resolved. The Council will receive updates at key points in the process when all bills are filed, at the beginning of the crossover session and the outcomes of the bills.

Dr. Khattar highlighted a few bills of interest related to higher education. The use of the Commonwealth Savers surplus funds and legislation related to athletics and actions of the NCAA seem to be topics of interest for the session. There is also interest in discussing dual enrollment in the Commonwealth. Finally, Dr. Khattar identified bills related to board leadership at institutions. Richard Bland is seeking to establish its own Board of Visitors governance separate from William and Mary.

Finally, Dr. Khattar discussed bills of interest to SCHEV. The Governor's budget provides funding for a data analyst position at SCHEV to make data accessible and user-friendly for families and students. This data has already been collected, so it would not require any additional reporting from institutions. Additionally, there is a bill that would prohibit the banning of transfer credit solely based on the sending body's accreditor type if the institution was approved by the U.S. Department of Education. Other restrictions on transfer credit such as course content and rigor would remain the same. Another bill of interest is common curriculum to increase the pipeline of nurses. The final bill identified as part of SCHEV's agenda would change Scott Fleming's title to executive director to align with other state agencies.

DISCUSSION OF SIX-YEAR PLANS

Dr. Khattar provided an update on the Six-Year Planning Process. The last six-year plan cycle was completed on December 1, 2024, and the plans are posted on SCHEV's website.

Starting in March 2025, SCHEV staff will meet with Op-Six, which includes representatives from the House and Senate money committees, Secretary of Education, Secretary of Finance, SCHEV's director and the Department of Planning and Budget, to refine and amend the templates.

Dr. Khattar directed Council to page 67 of the agenda book to view the current templates required to be completed by institutions. In May 2025, SCHEV staff will send the templates to institutions and require submissions by July 2025. Institutions will come in person in August and September to discuss the plans with the Op-Six and SCHEV staff. Based on those meetings, the Op-Six will develop questions and comments for the institutions. SCHEV staff will distribute those questions and comments to the institutions. The institutions are required to respond by October 1, 2025. The new plans will be posted on the website by Dec. 1, 2025.

UPDATE ON PELL INITIATIVE

Mr. Andes updated the Council on the upcoming changes by SCHEV in evaluating Pell Initiative proposals. For the last two years, institutions submitted proposals on how to spend the funds (\$37 million) over four years. This created a large escrow account due to a lack of certainty regarding the continuation of funds. However, according to Mr. Andes there is confidence that the funds should remain in the budgets allowing full funding to be dispersed each year.

Mr. Andes said that SCHEV staff will return to institutions and ask them to be more aggressive in Pell enrollment and in retention and completion initiatives. Proposals are due by February 3, 2025, and by late April, approvals for FY 2026 will be announced. SCHEV staff will spend less time reviewing institution goals but will spend more time evaluating the results of the activities undertaken making this a more performance-based program.

General Jumper asked if, as the program is being restructured, institutions are sharing best practices or ideas during the building of the program. Mr. Andes stated that best practices are being incorporated into the implementation of the program, and priority funding will be given to practices that have been successful.

Dr. Taylor asked about the performance portion of the funding formula. Mr. Andes explained that institutions would give SCHEV goals and the associated activities and that plans will be individualized to institutions. SCHEV staff will evaluate whether the institution achieved their goals. If an institution is underperforming in the annual review, SCHEV can determine if a new emphasis is needed. Dr. Taylor asked, since the proposals are not a one-size fits all metric, and institutions identify what they want to accomplish, if SCHEV will hold them accountable. Mr. Andes explained that if a practice or activity is unsuccessful then the evaluations will inform and provide information to help institutions adjust their goals and practices.

Ms. Fryer asked if the institution's goals are only based on completion or if there are other accountability standards. Mr. Andes replied that if an institution is better at retention and completion or recruitment the focus can shift to where they need to improve. Ms. Fryer asked if the proposals for initiatives are wide open. For example, could an institution focus on job placement for Pell recipients? Mr. Andes stated that the program is intentionally narrowly focused on enrollment or retention and completion efforts by the institutions.

General Jumper asked if Mr. Andes had any ideas on the impact of the FAFSA simplification process. Mr. Andes said that the impact varies by institution and demographics. Some existing students have demonstrated more need because the formula pushed them to a higher level of need. Mr. Andes stated that there is concern that some students are eligible for less funding even though their income did not change. Mr. Andes explained that the greater impact of the FAFSA simplification process was the implementation not the results, which has caused students to be more cautious about which colleges to attend, with more students staying in state. Even attendance at private institutions have more in-state students but overall decline in attendance. This has created more demand for the Tuition Assistance Grant (TAG).

Mr. Andes stated that it may take a few years to see the full impact of the FAFSA implementation. General Jumper requested that Mr. Andes keep Council informed regarding the continuing impact and progress of the FAFSA simplification process.

ANNUAL PROGRESS UPDATE ON THE GOALS OF THE STATEWIDE STRATEGIC PLAN AND PROCESS INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW PLAN

Ms. Salmon reviewed the statutory requirements for the strategic plan development and annual reporting. She also provided select findings from the most recent Virginia Plan for Higher Education for 2024 and introduced a roadmap for developing the next strategic plan.

Ms. Salmon explained that by statute, SCHEV is tasked with developing the Commonwealth's strategic plan for higher education. The current plan, the Pathways to Opportunity, was developed during the COVID years and approved by Council in January 2021. Virginia Code requires a review every six years to ensure the plan's relevance in addressing critical issues. SCHEV submits a report on the annual progress toward reaching those statutory goals by January 1. The annual progress report was submitted in December 2024.

Ms. Salmon then focused on the status of the current plan and the framework for higher education in Virginia, which includes closing gaps in access and completion, lowering cost and expanding prosperity for individuals and for the Commonwealth as a whole. Achieving these goals will aid in realizing the vision of becoming the best state for education by 2030. As part of the framework, there are 10 supporting strategies and an overarching attainment objective of 70% post-secondary educational attainment by 2030. The educational attainment measure includes certificates and certifications for all working-age Virginians.

Ms. Salmon provided a high-level view of the strategic plan's process and reported that there is consistent improvement and attainment over time. The data is root data from the Census but sourced from the Lumina Foundation Stronger Nation, which compiled data points for all 50 states to inform how Virginia compares. The national average for the attainment objective is 54.3%, while Virginia is at 59%. The most recent available data is from 2022. According to Ms. Salmon, we are trending two years behind. There is improvement over the last decade in terms of attainment but to keep pace, the Commonwealth must achieve a 1.4% increase for the next eight years to reach the 2030 goal. Since we are looking at 2022 data, this gives us eight years to see success by 2030.

Ms. Salmon summarized that with regard to the measures of progress there are no big changes, no big gains and no big movement in the wrong direction, and there has been steady progress. Mr. El Koubi asked about the period Ms. Salmon is describing. Salmon replied that the measures always reference the two years prior, so for 2024, we are looking at 2022, with a base year 2019-2020. We are always trending two years behind in data. There is no one-to-one comparison.

Ms. Salmon suggested Council read the annual progress report posted on the SCHEV website as it has more details regarding progress toward the

Commonwealth's strategic plan. She also stated that staff are willing to meet or answer any questions.

General Jumper how SCHEV is defining an award. Ms. Salmon responded it was total degrees awarded, then aggregated by region, race, income and gender.

Ms. Salmon said staff seeks feedback from Council for the next strategic plan and how to align goals and measures and what should be quantified. Overall, the undergirding of the current plan focused on closing access and completion gaps and gaps in general, with no specific quantitative numbers.

Mr. El Koubi asked why there is a difference between attainment measure and attainment objective. Ms. Salmon replied that the attainment objective is a broader, more encompassing objective, referencing top jobs. All stakeholders wanted to keep this measure from the previous strategic plan. However, when looking at these three goals and the desire to disaggregate by subgroup, Council wanted to define the attainment measure separately.

General Jumper remarked that this is a good task for Council to tighten up the measures of success to be more specific.

Ms. Salmon discussed the roadmap to a new Virginia plan with the timeline running from January to December 2025. She noted that this agenda item starts the process with the goal of publishing a plan by December or January.

Ms. Salmon stated that next steps are to present draft goals to Council in March for reaction and refining them iteratively. Additionally, Ms. Salmon will seek out input from stakeholders. SCHEV staff will then seek endorsement of the goals in September to write the new strategic plan.

General Jumper stated this is a great leverage opportunity for input into the larger idea of more efficient and effective processes. He encouraged Council's deliberative engagement in the process.

General Jumper requested a robust risk analysis to go along with the roadmap for the developing the new strategic plan, call out where risks exist and point efforts toward addressing those risks.

Mr. El Koubi said he had three points. First, the overall road map looks good, structured, easy to see how it will all come together with the roadmap highlighted by Ms. Salmon. He wanted to second General Jumper's charge to be deliberative both for staff and Council. Mr. El Koubi challenged the other Council members to dig into this charge. He continued that, through his work on the VEDP board, he had an opportunity to engage with risk analysis. He offered to connect Ms. Salmon and SCHEV staff with folks who worked on risk analysis with VEDP. Mr. El Koubi encouraged the Council and staff to frame goals as much as possible to position Virginia as a leader in the nation. Mr. El Koubi stated that it will be necessary to have data sets for all 50 states to benchmark among the states.

Ms. Salmon told Council members to reach out with any questions and that SCHEV staff will reach out as this process progresses.

REMARKS FROM DEBBIE SYDOW, PRESIDENT, RICHARD BLAND COLLEGE

President Sydow joined the Council meeting to discuss Richard Bland College (RBC). Her presentation started with a detailed history of the governance relationship between RBC and William & Mary. She discussed the efforts and roadblocks that RBC has faced in seeking independent governance.

Dr. Sydow joined RBC in 2012. She introduced the many changes she has implemented at RBC since she took over. RBC has reintroduced collegiate sports and started a drone operating academy on the campus. In 2023, RBC restarted its appeal for independent governance. RBC has put forward a bill for the 2025 General Assembly to consider allowing RBC to create its own independent Board of Visitors.

Today, Richard Bland College is 58% minority. RBC students come to campus with a 3.0 GPA. First generation students are 51% of the student body and half of students live on campus. Dr. Sydow highlighted that RBC enjoys a 24% referral rate.

Enrollment in residential population has grown. There is a slight decline in the commuter population, but overall, enrollment is growing. RBC has a robust dual-enrollment population, with several hundred coming to campus and many more online.

Dr. Sydow highlighted the unique first- and second-year student experience at RBC. Students receive extensive support to ensure future success. Eighty-five percent of the RBC faculty is full-time with terminal degrees rather than adjunct. Many students have research opportunities through the grant office and faculty research. Richard Bland College focuses its students on critical thinking.

The University College allows students to stay at Richard Bland for years three and four while earning degrees at Virginia State University or Virginia Wesleyan University. The Promise Scholars program allows Pell-eligible, qualified students to graduate from William & Mary debt-free.

Dr. Sydow shared that RBC emphasizes mental health and well-being of their students. Each student is provided with a Learner Mentor who is trained to be a one-stop to aid students in finding the help they need.

Dr. Sydow concluded by introducing Council to the Reach Project, designed as outreach to students in rural areas of the state.

She concluded by taking some questions from the Council. General Jumper asked Dr. Sydow how RBC is planning for the demographic shift. She stated that RBC has areas of risk but plans to work to appeal to the demographic and provide alternatives to the typically higher education model.

PRESENTATION ON VIRGINIA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP'S TALENT INITIATIVE

Council member Jason El Koubi presented to the Council in his capacity as president and CEO at the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP). The VEDP has a talent initiative that he introduced to the group.

He discussed positioning Virginia as America's top state for talent. The initiative was part of VEDP's strategic planning and included input from various stakeholders, including Alan Edwards, who was SCHEV's interim director at the time.

He stressed that the initiative still needs to be refined. Mr. El Koubi introduced the following trends that are informing the initiative:

1. Improved economic performance.
2. Intensified competitive landscape.
3. Talent-driven location decisions.
4. Scarcity of project-ready sites.

Mr. El Koubi outlined the process and introduced Council to the transformational goals for the Commonwealth including:

1. Robust state growth.
2. Every region wins.
3. Best state for business.
4. Top state for talent.
5. Most innovative, collaborative and effective state economic development operations.

Mr. El Koubi stressed the top state for talent goal. VEDP identified three core strategies including retaining and attracting talent, developing talent, aligning with employer needs and unlocking work potential by reducing barriers. He also spent some time describing the measures used to define success and where the data places the Commonwealth currently. He discussed the role of higher education in reaching the goal of top state for talent.

Mr. Fleming thanked Mr. El Koubi for his presentation.

RECEIPT OF REPORT FROM AGENCY DIRECTOR

Mr. Fleming discussed SCHEV's significant accomplishments from his first six months and throughout 2024. He first noted the digital fact packs which were updated a year ahead of time. The team also began linking program approval and program productivity together to be nimbler and more responsive to the need of the work force while retaining accountability. SCHEV has issued dozens of reports and onboarded four new and one returning Council member. We also carried out the largest BOV orientation to date.

For 2025, he stressed focusing on outcomes for all students, access and affordability. SCHEV will talk about workforce alignment. SCHEV will review the six-year planning process and see how to make the most of it. SCHEV will continue to plan for the incoming enrollment cliff and emphasize the importance of post-secondary credentialing.

The full report is available on page 91 of the January agenda book.

General Jumper thanked the staff for their work and stressed that Council need to be patient with the changes they wish to implement. He stressed that the Council needs to be ambitious but not kill our initiatives with overreach.

RECEIPT OF ITEMS DELEGATED TO STAFF

Mr. Fleming promised to send the links to the enrollment data that Dr. Harvey requested. General Jumper asked that staff reach out to Dr. Harvey directly. Included at the end of this document.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

General Jumper suggested that in the near future, SCHEV pursue ways to anticipate the impact of the enrollment cliff on smaller institutions and provide strategies to help.

RECEIPT OF PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

John Jumper
Council Chair

SCHEV Staff

Items Delegated to Director/Staff

Pursuant to the Code of Virginia, § 23.1-203 and Council's "*Policies and Procedures for Program Approval and Changes*," the following items approved/not approved as delegated to staff:

Academic Program Actions

Institution	Degree/Program/CIP	Effective Date
George Mason University	Program Name Change Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change the name of the Bachelor of Science in Education (BSEd) in Early Childhood Education for Diverse Young Learners (13.1210) to Inclusive Early Childhood Education 	Spring 2025
James Madison University	CIP Code Changes Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science (BA/BS) degree program in Economics from 45.0601 to 45.0603 Master of Science (MS) degree program in Integrated Science and Technology from 30.1501 to 30.0601 	Spring 2025
James Madison University	Program Modification Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modify the credit hours of the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree program in Counseling and Supervision (42.2899) from 48 credit hours to 60 credit hours 	Summer 2025
Radford University	Graduate Certificate Program Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Music Therapy (51.2305) 	Spring 2025
Radford University	Program Modification Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modify the credit hours of the Master of Science (MS) degree program in Criminal Justice (43.0104) from 36 credit hours to 30 credit hours 	Fall 2025
University of Virginia	Facilitated Staff Approval: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add a post-baccalaureate program pathway to the existing SCHEV-approved Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree program in Nursing Practice (51.3818) 	Spring 2025
University of Virginia	Program Modification Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modify the credit hours of the Master of Science (MS) degree program in Global 	Fall 2025

Institution	Degree/Program/CIP	Effective Date
	Commerce (52.1101) from 40 credit hours to 30 credit hours	
Virginia Commonwealth University	CIP Code Change Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change the CIP code of the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree program in Healthcare Policy and Research from 51.2299 to 45.0102 	Fall 2024
Virginia Commonwealth University	Graduate Certificate Program Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English Literature (23.0101) 	Spring 2025
Virginia Commonwealth University	Graduate Certificate Program Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparing Future Faculty (13.1214) 	Fall 2025
Virginia Commonwealth University	Program Modifications Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modify the credit hours of the Master of Art Education (MAE) degree program in Art Education (13.1302) from 36 credit hours to 30 credit hours Modify the credit hours of the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree program in Nursing (51.3808) from 58-67 credit hours to 58-59 credit hours 	Fall 2025

Pursuant to the Code of Virginia, § 23.1-203 and Council's "*Policies and Procedures for Program Approval and Changes*," the following items approved and reported:

Programs Discontinued

Institution	Degree/Program/CIP	Effective Date
College of William and Mary in Virginia	Degree Designation Discontinuance Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree designation in the Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science (B.A./B.S.) degree program in Mathematics (27.0101) Master of Arts (M.A.) degree designation in the Master of Arts/Master of Science (M.A./M.S.) degree program in Physics (40.0801) 	Spring 2025
Old Dominion University	Program Discontinuance Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master of Science (MS) degree program in Park, Recreation and Tourism Studies (31.0301) [Council Approval Date: February 22, 2017] 	Spring 2025
Radford University	Degree Designation Discontinuances Approved:	Spring 2025

Institution	Degree/Program/CIP	Effective Date
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree designation in the Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science (B.A./B.S.) degree program in Physics (40.0801) Master of Arts (M.A.) degree designation in the Master of Arts/Master of Science (M.A./M.S.) degree program in Criminal Justice (43.0104) 	
University of Mary Washington	Program Discontinuance Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master of Science (MS) degree program in Geospatial Analysis (45.0702) [Council Approval Date: October 29, 2013] 	Spring 2025
Virginia Commonwealth University	Graduate Certificate Program Discontinuance Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (13.1401) 	Spring 2025

Pursuant to the Code of Virginia, § 23.1-203 and Council's "*Policies and Procedures for Internal and Off-Campus Organizational Changes*," the following items approved as delegated to staff:

Internal and Off-Campus Organizational Changes

Institution	Change/Site	Effective Date
Christopher Newport University	<p>Create the School of Arts. The School will reside in the College of Arts and Humanities. Two existing departments will be moved to the school: the Department of Fine Art and Art History and, the Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance.</p> <p>The establishment of the school will "help increase collaboration between the faculty in the two departments... and the two professional art venues on the main campus."</p>	January 2, 2025
College of William and Mary in Virginia	Rename the School of Marine Science to the Batten School of Coastal and Marine Sciences . The school has been renamed to recognize a \$100 million gift. Further, "the change to include the word 'coastal' will accurately reflect the faculty's research and activities....."	October 15, 2024
Radford University	Reorganize Academic Affairs to close the College of Graduate Studies . The college closure will "close a unit that does	June 1, 2025

Institution	Change/Site	Effective Date
	not function as a college in the way Radford University treats academic units.”	
University of Mary Washington	<p>Reorganize the College of Business to relocate the Department of Computer Science from the College of Arts and Sciences to the College. The reorganization is needed “to improve the workload balance and oversight of academic units of deans at the university.”</p> <p>All resources supporting the Department of Computer Science will be reallocated and relocated with the department.</p>	January 13, 2025
University of Mary Washington	<p>Reorganize the College of Business to relocate the Department of Economics from the College of Arts and Sciences to the College. The reorganization is needed “to improve the workload balance and oversight of academic units of deans at the university.”</p> <p>All resources supporting the Department of Economics will be reallocated and relocated with the department.</p>	January 13, 2025
University of Mary Washington	<p>Reorganize the College of Business to relocate the Department of Mathematics from the College of Arts and Sciences to the College. The reorganization is needed “to improve the workload balance and oversight of academic units of deans at the university.”</p> <p>All resources supporting the Department of Mathematics will be reallocated and relocated with the department.</p>	January 13, 2025
University of Mary Washington	<p>Reorganize the College of Education to relocate the Department of Athletics, Health, and Physical Education from the College of Arts and Sciences to the College. The reorganization is needed “to improve the workload balance and oversight of academic units of deans at the university.”</p> <p>All resources supporting the Department of Athletics, Health, and Physical Education will be reallocated and relocated with the department.</p>	January 13, 2025

Institution	Change/Site	Effective Date
University of Mary Washington	Reorganize the College of Education to relocate the Department of Nursing from the College of Arts and Sciences to the College. The reorganization is needed “to improve the workload balance and oversight of academic units of deans at the university.” All resources supporting the Department of Nursing will be reallocated and relocated with the department.	January 13, 2025
Virginia Commonwealth University	Rename the Richard T. Robertson School of Media and Culture to the Richard T. Robertson School of Communication . The School is located in the College of Humanities and Sciences. The school has been renamed “to align the [unit] more closely with the names used by VCU’s SCHEV peer institutions.”	November 1, 2024
Virginia Commonwealth University	Reorganize the College of Humanities and Sciences to relocate the Department of Focused Inquiry from the University College to the College. The relocation of the department from the University College will “allow the Dean of the College of Humanities and Sciences to align faculty with similar academic backgrounds with degree programs and other academic program needs.” The reorganization is needed to ensure the department “is located in a college that allows for collaborative opportunities among faculty with similar academic backgrounds.”	December 15, 2024

Pursuant to the Code of Virginia, § 23.1-203 and Council’s “*Policies and Procedures for Internal and Off-Campus Organizational Changes*,” the following items disapproved as delegated to staff:

Internal and Off-Campus Organizational Changes

Institution	Change/Site	Effective Date
Virginia Commonwealth University	Change the name of the University College to the Academy for Interdisciplinary Innovation	October 10, 2024

Institution	Change/Site	Effective Date
Virginia Commonwealth University	Change the name of the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology to the Department of Neuroscience	November 26, 2024

Pursuant to the Code of Virginia § 23.1-213 to 230 and 8VAC-40-31-90 of the Virginia Administrative Code, the following items were approved as delegated to staff:

Postsecondary, Non-Degree Institutions Certified to Operate in the Commonwealth of Virginia

Institution	Location	Effective Date
Accelerated Academy	Purcellville, VA	September 23, 2024
Illuminate Beauty Institute	Norfolk, VA	September 23, 2024
Empire Beauty School (Change of Ownership- 4 locations)	Richmond, VA Midlothian, VA VA Beach, VA Newport News, VA	September 27, 2024
OceanPointe Dental Academy of Richmond	Glen Allen, VA	October 28, 2024
Yoll Academy	Fairfax, VA	December 2, 2024



Retired Maj. Gen. Cedric T. Wins serves as the 15th superintendent of the Virginia Military Institute following an affirmative vote in April 2021 by the VMI Board of Visitors Executive Committee. Maj. Gen. Wins is a 34-year veteran of the U.S. Army.

In 1985, he graduated with a bachelor of arts in economics and commissioned into the Army as a field artillery officer. During his time as a cadet at VMI, Wins was a standout basketball player who finished his basketball career as one of the top five scorers in school history. Over his four years at VMI, he helped lead the team from last place in the Southern conference to the Southern Conference finals during his first-class year.

He is a graduate of the Field Artillery Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Command and General Staff College, and the National War College. He holds a master's degree in management from the Florida Institute of Technology and master's degree in national security and strategic studies from the National War College.

Maj. Gen. Wins was the first Commanding General of the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command (CCDC), having assumed that role when the Research, Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM) became the CCDC upon transition into the Army Futures Command (AFC) on Feb. 3, 2019. Prior to that, Wins served as the RDECOM Commander.

Before his assignment as RDECOM commander, Wins served as Director, Force Development in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8. During his 34 years of service, he held leadership and staff assignments in the 7th Infantry Division (Light), Fort Ord, California; the 2nd Infantry Division, Eighth United States Army, Korea; Combined Army Support Command (CASCOM), Fort Lee, Virginia; Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations, G-3/5/7, Headquarters Department of the Army and the Joint Staff, The Pentagon; the 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas; Strategic Planning, J-8, U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM), MacDill Air Force Base, Florida; Program Analysis Evaluation Directorate (PAED), Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8; and the Requirement Integration Directorate (RID), Army Capabilities Integration Center, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia.

His deployments include Task Force Sinai, Multinational Force and Observers, Egypt, Operations Officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 5th Battalion, 21st Infantry (Light); Program Executive Officer, Joint Program Executive Office-- Afghanistan Public Protection Force, Combined Security Transition Command --Afghanistan, Operation Enduring Freedom; and Deputy Commander, Police, North Atlantic Treaty Organization Training Mission -- Afghanistan/Combined Security Transition Command -- Afghanistan, Operation Enduring Freedom.

His awards and badges include the Distinguished Service Medal (with One Oak Leaf Cluster), the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit (with One Oak Leaf Cluster), the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (with One Oak Leaf Cluster), the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal (with Two Oak

Leaf Clusters), the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Army Achievement Medal (with One Oak Leaf Cluster) and Parachutist Badge, Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge and Army Staff Identification Badge.

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

Agenda Item

Item: III. D. – Council -- Conversation with Student Advisory Committee: Critical Issues Impacting Students

Date of Meeting: March 18, 2025

Presenters: Anne Lowe
College Access Data Management Specialist
annelowe@schev.edu

Paula Robinson
Associate Director of Student Success Opportunities and Engagement
paularobinson@schev.edu

Members of SCHEV's 2024-25 Student Advisory Committee

Most Recent Review/Action:

- ☒ No previous Council review/action
☐ Previous review/action

Date:

Action:

Purpose of the Agenda Item:

The purpose of this item is to afford Council an opportunity to hear directly from students about issues they face as college students in the Commonwealth. As members of the 2024-25 Student Advisory Committee (SAC), presenters will share the critical issues impacting students and will discuss solutions proposed through students collaborating across the state. Following student presentation, SCHEV staff will facilitate a discussion between Council and SAC representatives on the identified critical issues.

Staff provides the information herein to facilitate a conversation between Council and SAC representatives about the challenges that students face and the supports on campus that help them work through those challenges. The students intend to identify areas for improvement through additional supports, either internally at their institutions or externally through state-level policy changes. The students also anticipate the discussion encompassing topics beyond SAC's three subcommittees (Student Finances; Mental Health; and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion), including but not limited to job opportunities and internship creation, the current political climate on their campuses, and additional topics relevant to Council, informed through their interactive presentation.

The conversation will support Council's interest in hearing periodically from students on various topics, as well as ongoing efforts to implement relevant strategies of the statewide strategic plan.

Background Information/Summary of Major Elements:

As authorized in the *Code of Virginia* (§ 23.1-201), the SCHEV Director annually appoints a Student Advisory Committee (SAC), consisting of student leaders from public higher education institutions and accredited private institutions. Members are nominated by their institutions' chief executives and are confirmed by SCHEV staff. The Committee elects its leadership (co-chairs) and serves to advise the agency director on system-wide issues of concern to Virginia students.

Through March 2025, the 2024-25 SAC has met three times via both in-person and virtual formats. The first meeting, an orientation to SAC, was in-person in Richmond and included a tour of the Capitol and an invitation to provide feedback on SCHEV's student facing educational website, [LevelupVirginia.gov](https://levelupvirginia.gov). Prior to the first meeting, members completed a survey to identify issues of concern to Virginia college students. Results from the survey informed the agendas of the Committee's future meetings and the formation of subcommittees.

Members organized themselves into three subcommittees: (i) student finances; (ii) mental health; and (iii) diversity, equity and inclusion. Each subcommittee elected co-chairs and received support from relevant SCHEV staff. Subcommittees coordinated correspondence and meetings between meetings of the full Committee.

In addition to the SCHEV Director, the Secretary of Education also attended SAC meetings and participated in discussion with the students. During the January meeting, Secretary Guidera used the opportunity to address the student concerns received in a letter compiled by a coalition of student leaders (10 public Student Government Association presidents). SAC members provided additional student feedback. Such is exemplary of the role that the SAC is designed to play – advisement on relevant student issues and recommendations for improvement.

Materials Provided: None.

Financial Impact: None.

Relationship to the Goals of *The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*:

This agenda item reflects broad themes from the statewide strategic plan pertaining to “strengthening student support services” and to achieving its goals of equitable higher education (close access and completion gaps) and transformative higher education (cultivate a climate of inclusion).

Timetable for Further Review/Action:

Notwithstanding subsequent conversations with SAC representatives that Council might request, the outcomes of this conversation and Council's reflections thereon throughout the year may inform members' development of future recommendations on budgetary and/or policy matters to the Governor and General Assembly.

Resolution: None.

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia Agenda Item

Item: III.E. – Council -- Discussion of Draft Goals of the Statewide Strategic Plan for Virginia Higher Education

Date of Meeting: March 18, 2025

Presenters: Scott Fleming
SCHEV Director
scottfleming@schev.edu

Emily Salmon
Assistant Director of Strategic Planning and Policy Studies
emilysalmon@schev.edu

Most Recent Review/Action:

☐ **No previous Council review/action**

☒ **Previous review/action:**

Date: January 7, 2025

Action: Council received an introduction to staff's proposed process for development of the next statewide strategic plan for higher education in Virginia.

Purpose of the Agenda Item:

The purpose of this item is to provide a summary of the process used to develop draft goal concepts and, more importantly, to facilitate Council's discussion of and feedback on the draft goal concepts. Feedback generated from the discussion will further shape the goal concepts presented during public input sessions across the Commonwealth. Refined goal concepts will serve as the foundation for the creation of other elements of the new *Virginia Plan* framework (i.e. vision, objectives, strategies, and measures).

Background Information/Summary of Major Elements:

Per statute, Council is responsible for developing the Commonwealth's state-level strategic plan for higher education (*The Virginia Plan*) and reviewing that plan at least every six years to ensure its relevance in addressing critical issues. SCHEV is charged with developing a plan that: (i) reflects statutory goals for higher education in the Commonwealth (§ 23.1-1002); (ii) identifies a coordinated approach to such state and regional goals; and (iii) emphasizes the future needs for higher education in Virginia.

January 2025 marked the fifth year of the plan's most-recent iteration, "*Pathways to Opportunity: The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*," and at the behest of the agency director and Council chair, the start of a year-long process to develop the next *Virginia Plan for Higher Education*.

Since Council's January meeting and discussion, staff have completed the following activities:

1. Survey of Council members to identify critical issues.
2. Survey (informed by Council survey themes) of higher-education stakeholders.
3. Registration process initiated for public-input sessions around the state and online.
4. Development of draft goal concepts for presentation to Council for feedback at its March meeting.

Next Steps: Council's feedback on the draft goal concepts (see Materials Provided) will inform staff's modifications thereof. The Council-reflected draft goal concepts will be presented and refined iteratively via internal and external stakeholder feedback (public input sessions and internal SCHEV workgroup activities). Council will receive and provide feedback on the refined goal language and draft strategies in May, with additional opportunities for modifications in July. At the September meeting, staff will seek Council endorsement of the vision/goals/strategies, with a target of producing the new plan by late December or early January.

Materials Provided: Draft goal concepts and accompanying discussion questions document.

Financial Impact: N/A

Relationship to the Goals of *The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*: This discussion will inform the next iteration of *The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*.

Timetable for Further Review/Action: N/A

Council's Statutory Responsibility

Develop a statewide strategic plan, per statute, for higher education that seeks to address critical issues and:

Reflects

statutory goals for higher education in the Commonwealth (§ 23.1-1002).

Identifies

a coordinated approach to such state and regional goals.

Emphasizes

the future needs for higher education in Virginia.

Council Survey Responses - Emergent Themes

Critical issues/themes identified and ranked from Council survey responses include:

<u>Virginia Higher Education Issues</u>	<u>Virginia Issues</u>
Talent development and retention (e.g. work-based learning, employer engagement, alternative student pathways). (24%)	Talent development and retention (e.g. outmigration, graduate preparedness, barriers to participation). (34%)
Relevance of higher education and return on investment (relevance to high school graduates, employers' talent needs, research/innovation as an economic engine). (20%)	Economy (jobs, inflation, federal policy and funding changes) (28%)
Affordability and access (tuition and fees, student educational pathways). (17%)	Societal and cultural dynamics (e.g., mental health, political polarization, declining confidence in institutions). (25%).
Declining enrollment (demographic cliff, business model of higher education). (15%)	Technological innovation and disruption (e.g. artificial intelligence advancements). (13%)
Higher education funding (federal, state and institutional funding models). (11%)	
Civil discourse, civic education and civic engagement. (9%)	

Notes:

Highlighted text = Leading issue (from Council and stakeholder survey responses) which higher education can play a significant role in addressing.

Bold text = Additional top ranked issues which higher education can play a significant role in addressing from Virginia higher education stakeholder survey (over 500 responses)

Draft Goal Concepts and Discussion Questions

The below draft goal concepts reflect the emergent themes summarized above.

Overarching Theme: Talent (access, pathways, development, retention and employment in Virginia)				
<u>Virginia Higher Ed Goal Concept</u>	<u>Council Feedback on the concepts</u>			
	Support	Needs discussion	Significant adjustments needed	Ideas for goal concept nomenclature?
Goal concept 1: Themes related to students' preparedness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To learn (college readiness/preparedness) To work (career readiness/preparedness) To contribute (civil discourse, civic engagement) To lead 				
Goal concept 2: Themes related to higher education's pertinence and value <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To student needs– sense of belonging/access (e.g. male enrollment, low income and under-represented) To students/families (affordable and alternative pathways) To taxpayers (return on investment) 				
Goal concept 3: Themes related to institutions' responsiveness and resilience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To industry needs (AI and other technological disruptions and innovations) To student needs (e.g. mental health, basic needs, pathways, etc.) To Virginians' needs (Funding models, organizational efficiencies and accountability, demographic changes) To societal and cultural dynamics (e.g. political polarization and declining confidence in institutions) 				

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia Agenda Item

Item: III.F – Council – Update on the 2025 General Assembly Session

Date of Meeting: March 18, 2025

Presenter: Dr. Grace Khattar
Senior Associate for Finance Policy and Government Relations
gracekhattar@schev.edu

Most Recent Review/Action:

- ☒ No previous Council review/action
☐ Previous review/action

Date:

Action:

Purpose of the Agenda Item:

The purpose of this item is to facilitate Council discussion of higher-education-related legislation from the 2025 session and new duties assigned to Council and/or the agency by the 2025 General Assembly, pending review by and action from the Governor.

Background Information/Summary of Major Elements:

The 2025 Virginia General Assembly convened on January 8.

- Chamber-approved legislation “crossed over” on February 4.
- The conference committee released its budget on February 20.
- The legislature acted on February 22 to adopt the Conference Budget and adjourned.
- The Reconvened Session is scheduled for April 2.

Staff will continue to monitor the status of a final budget adopted by the Governor and General Assembly.

Materials Provided:

None enclosed. At the meeting, staff will provide paper copies of lists of:

- Higher-ed bills passed the 2025 Virginia General Assembly that are awaiting action from the Governor; and
- New or revised duties assigned to Council and/or the agency based on actions of the General Assembly.

Financial Impact: TBD

Timetable for Further Review/Action:

At Council's May meeting, staff will review relevant developments from the legislature's Reconvened Session in April.

Relationship to the Goals of *The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*: N/A

Resolution: N/A

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia Agenda Item

Item: III.G. – Council – Report of the Agency Director

Date of Meeting: March 18, 2025

Presenter: A. Scott Fleming
Director
scottfleming@schev.edu

Most Recent Review/Action:

☒ No previous Council review/action

☐ Previous review/action

Date:

Action:

Purpose of the Agenda Item:

The purpose of this item is to inform Council of recent and upcoming work in which staff is involved.

Background Information/Summary of Major Elements: N/A

Materials Provided: Director's Report.

Financial Impact: N/A

Timetable for Further Review/Action: N/A

Relationship to Goals of *The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*: N/A

Resolution: N/A

Director's Report
State Council of Higher Education
March 18, 2025

General Assembly “Short Session:” During the 2025 legislative session, staff monitored over 100 bills, prepared numerous summaries and reports for the executive branch, attended meetings of relevant committees and subcommittees, and met with legislators and legislative staffers. On January 14th, I presented to the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee on [the state of public higher education, opportunities and challenges, and Council's budget recommendations and the agency's priorities for 2025.](#)

GPAC (Public-institution CEOs) Meetings: In January and February, I convened public-institution chief executives as the General Professional Advisory Committee (GPAC). The January agenda included discussion of the Institute for Citizens and Scholars' College Presidents for Civic Preparedness initiative, as well as the legislative session, the process for development of the next statewide strategic plan, and the process for development of institutions' 2025 six-year plans. The February agenda included an introduction to the Pathway platform project and solicitation of executives' feedback on the process and contents of the next statewide strategic plan. Secretary Guidera participated in both meetings.

ACE Fellows Visit: In late January, staff hosted a visit by four American Council on Education (ACE) Fellows, who aspire to be postsecondary leaders. The Fellows, who visited Virginia institutions during the week, sought discussion with SCHEV staff on matters related to student success and pending legislation. Staff also escorted the Fellows around the Capitol and the General Assembly Building.

AI (Artificial Intelligence) Summit Planning: Through George Mason University, SCHEV will be sponsoring a summit on AI in education. In early February, our staffs convened a broadly-representative group to begin planning the event, which is slated for May 20-21 at GMU (and online). Since then, a registration link has been distributed to constituents in education (secondary and postsecondary), government, and the private sector. The agenda is shaping up to include plenary and break-out sessions on teaching and learning, educational outcomes, and ethical considerations.

FFEI Grant Awarding: In mid-February, SCHEV [announced the awarding of a grant from the Fund for Excellence and Innovation](#) to a team of institutions led by Virginia State University to support efforts to improve artificial intelligence (AI) instruction at community colleges and four-year institutions and to create resources for use by others. VSU's partners in the three-year, \$250,000 project are Northern Virginia Community College and Brightpoint Community College.

Agency Staff Meeting: On February 13th, I convened the first all-agency staff meeting of 2025. The agenda included recognitions of staff accomplishments, discussion of opportunities for involvement in the development of the next statewide strategic plan, and updates on the employee-experience survey, the procurement process, and emergency preparedness.

Outstanding Faculty Awards (OFA) Ceremony: On March 4th, SCHEV and the Dominion Foundation hosted a celebration of the 12 recipients of the 2025 [Virginia Outstanding Faculty Awards](#). Chief Deputy Secretary Gullickson and Dominion SVP William “Bill” Murray provided remarks, and Council members El Koubi and Edmond presented the awards. Previous recipient Elizabeth Outka offered reflections. This year is the last that Dominion will sponsor the awards.

Input Gathering for the Statewide Strategic Plan: Following and based on Council members’ input on the issues and needs of Virginia and of higher education in Virginia, staff circulated a brief online survey to stakeholders and constituents. Through the first week of March, responses were approaching 500. Staff also will conduct live (in-person and virtual) information-gathering sessions, two of which will be held at the University of Mary Washington and at Louisa County High School (thanks to assistance from Council member Straley). Other locations were still in-development when this report was prepared in early March.

VINHE Summit: On March 7th, SCHEV assisted with the 3rd annual Virginia Indigenous Nations in Higher Education (VINHE) Leadership Summit, which was held at Piedmont Virginia Community College. Members of Virginia’s 11 state-recognized Tribal Nations gathered with representatives of Virginia’s public and private postsecondary institutions for a day of dialogue. The discussion focused on consultation, collaboration, and consent. The event also served as an opportunity to strengthen relationships and understanding, and thus true partnership, between the two communities.

Out and About: Since Council’s January meeting, I participated in a variety of activities, including a meeting of the SCHEV/GEAR UP Virginia College Access Advisory Board; a briefing with First Lady Youngkin and the Arthur Brooks Team regarding the March 26th Commonwealth Conversation; the ESG Community of Practice on ROI; the quarterly meeting of the Governance Council of the Workforce Data Trust; the February meeting of the State Board of Education; the spring meeting of the Virginia College Building Authority (VCBA); the meeting of the board of Virginia Works; the meeting of the Virginia Healthcare Workforce Board; and several meetings with the Department of General Services about relocation of the agency out of the Monroe Building.

Items Delegated to Director/Staff

Pursuant to the Code of Virginia, § 23.1-203 and Council's "*Policies and Procedures for Program Approval and Changes*," the following items approved/not approved as delegated to staff:

Academic Program Actions

Institution	Degree/Program/CIP	Effective Date
College of William and Mary in Virginia	Facilitated Staff Approval: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor of Science (BS) degree program in Coastal and Marine Sciences (30.3201) 	Fall 2025
Danville Community College	Program Name Change Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree program in Administration of Justice to Criminal Justice (43.0103) 	Summer 2025
Norfolk State University	Graduate Certificate Program Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addictions and Trauma (51.1501) 	Spring 2025
Norfolk State University	Undergraduate Certificate Program Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> African American Studies (05.0201) 	Spring 2025
Old Dominion University	Graduate Certificate Programs Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artificial Intelligence in Cyber Defense (29.0207) Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare (51.0707) Artificial Intelligence in Supply Chain Operations (11.9999) 	Fall 2025
Rappahannock Community College	Program Name Change Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree program in Administration of Justice to Criminal Justice (43.0103) 	Summer 2025
University of Virginia	Graduate Certificate Program Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hispanic Linguistics (16.0908) 	Summer 2025
University of Virginia	Program Modifications Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add an online delivery format to the Graduate Certificate in Public Leadership (44.0599) Add an online delivery format to the Graduate Certificate in Public Policy (44.0501) 	Fall 2025
Virginia Commonwealth University	Program Modification Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modify the credit hours of the Master of Interdisciplinary Studies (MIS) degree program in Interdisciplinary Studies 	Fall 2025

Institution	Degree/Program/CIP	Effective Date
	(30.9999) with 36 credit hours to 30 credit hours	
Virginia Commonwealth University	Undergraduate Certificate Program Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aging Studies (30.1101) 	Fall 2025

Pursuant to the Code of Virginia, § 23.1-203 and Council's "*Policies and Procedures for Program Approval and Changes*," the following items approved and reported:

Programs Discontinued

Institution	Degree/Program/CIP	Effective Date
College of William and Mary in Virginia	Program Discontinuance Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science (BA/BS) degree program in Kinesiology (31.0501) [Council Approval Date: Unknown] 	Summer 2025
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	Program Discontinuance Approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master of Arts (MA) degree program in Data Analysis and Applied Statistics (27.0601) [Council Approval Date: October 27, 2015] 	Fall 2025

Pursuant to the Code of Virginia, § 23.1-203 and Council's "*Policies and Procedures for Internal and Off-Campus Organizational Changes*," the following items approved as delegated to staff:

Internal and Off-Campus Organizational Changes

Institution	Change/Site	Effective Date
Radford University	Reorganize and close the Department of Geospatial Science and the Department of Geology to establish the Department of Geospatial and Earth Sciences . The Department will reside in the Artis College of Sciences and Technology. The establishment of one academic unit will allow consolidation of "courses offered by two separate departments. The organizational change will also result in a cost savings of "approximately \$8,000" and establish one "resourcefully sound department."	March 10, 2025
Radford University	Create the Department of Graduate Nursing . The Department will reside in	February 1, 2025

Institution	Change/Site	Effective Date
	the College of Nursing. The new department “is needed to establish an academic unit to administer and manage the varied graduate degree programs in nursing” at the university.	
Radford University	Create the Department of Undergraduate Nursing . The Department will reside in the College of Nursing. A department is needed “to establish an academic unit to administer and manage the large undergraduate degree program in nursing” at the university.	February 1, 2025
Virginia Commonwealth University	Reorganize and close the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, the Department of Human and Molecular Genetics, and the Department of Physiology and Biophysics to establish the Department of Cellular, Molecular, and Genetic Medicine . The Department will be located in the School of Medicine. The establishment of one academic unit will “eliminate the silos that exist among the three (3) existing departments” and “ensure faculty members use more collaborative approaches in the research conducted.” The organizational change will also result in a cost savings of “approximately \$2,000,000” and “improved administrative efficiency within the School of Medicine.”	February 3, 2025

Pursuant to the Code of Virginia, Section § 23.1-211 and Council’s “*Commonwealth of Virginia Policy on the Reciprocal Authorization of Distance Education and Related Activities*,” the following item approved as delegated to staff:

**National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA)
Approvals**

Institution	Effective Date
Agora University	January 13, 2025

Pursuant to the Code of Virginia § 23.1-213 to 230 and 8VAC-40-31-90 of the Virginia Administrative Code, the following items were approved as delegated to staff:

Postsecondary, Non-Degree Institutions Certified to Operate in the Commonwealth of Virginia

Institution	Location	Effective Date
CloudSpace Academy	Manassas, VA	December 26, 2024
OceanPointe Dental Assisting Academy of Vienna	Vienna, VA	January 22, 2025
Premier Dental Academy	Virginia Beach, VA	January 31, 2025